

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Appn. Number: _____

Appn. Filed: _____

Applicant(s): Welch

Appn. Title: Method of Providing Audio Format --

Examiner/GAU: _____ 1324

Mailed: With Application

At: _____

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon.
Following are comments on these references pursuant to Rule 98:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Patent to Allison, No. 6,546,230 which describes a method for assessing the skills of medical professionals and involves a medical professional accessing a competency test over a network link. Based on the results of the test a medical professional is provided a list of courses over the network link which might or might not be available over the network. As the courses are not necessarily available over the network, repeated accessing of updated versions thereof over said network is not obviated.

Patent No. 5,794,207 to Walker et al. is focused on bilateral buyer-driven commerce, but is cited primarily as it is very enlightening regarding the Internet and regarding basic Contract and U.C.C. Law etc.

Patent to Chao et al., No. 6,325,632, is disclosed because it describes a computer-aided learning method and systems for matching students with instructors.

Patent No. 5,926,796 to Walker et al. is cited as it describes a system and method for facilitating sale and distribution of retail subscriptions to periodicals.

Additional known Patents to Walker et al. are Nos. 5,797,127, 5,897,620 and 5,825,863, the first two of which focus on pricing and selling etc. of airline tickets, and the later of which focuses on prepaid limited usage calling cards.

Patent No. 5,793,980 to Glasser et al., which describes an Audio-On-Demand Communication System which focuses on providing access to audio, such as news or music, or having a book read over the internet. The invention is focused on a system and method for sending a data stream at a rate controlled by acknowledgement markers sent from a receiving computer, which acknowledgement markers control data flow to said receiver.

Patent No. 5,732,216 to Logan et al., describes an audio message exchange system and method in which a listener can input audio format data.

Patent No. 5,793,762 to Penners et al., describes a system and method for providing packet data and voice services to mobile subscribers.

Patent No. 5,819,032 to deVires, describes an electronically distributed magazine which provides for a reader thereof to submit comment relating to an article therein.

Patent No. 5,884,324 to Cheng et al., describes a method and system for receiving a subscription message from Client computer wherein the subscription message specifies a remote data base table and replication period.

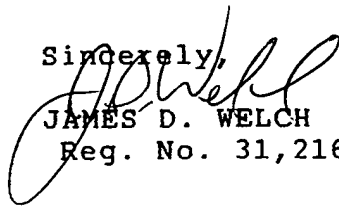
Patent No. 5,956,697 to Usui describes a timer-based fee-charging Internet system which provides an authentication server to confirm if a subscriber should be allowed to gain access.

Patent No. 5,956,716 to Kenner et al., describes a system and method for delivery of video clips, optionally accompanied by audio.

Patent No. 6,049,829 to Li describes an information access system and method in which factors such as proximity, speed, server capacity, server loading, backbone and access network bandwidths and placement and access mechanisms of servers are considered regarding ease of acquiring information.

Patents Nos. 6,018,767 to Fijolek et al., and 5,943,422 to Van Wie et al. are also disclosed as they were turned-up in a Search effort, although not felt to be particularly relevant.

Sincerely,


JAMES D. WELCH

Reg. No. 31,216

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LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| AA | 6546230 | 4/2003 | Allison | 434 | 350 | |
| AB | 5794207 | 8/1998 | Walker et al. | 705 | 23 | |
| AC | 6325632 | 12/2001 | Chao et al. | 434 | 322 | |
| AD | 5926796 | 7/1999 | Walker et al. | 705 | 16 | |
| AE | 5797127 | 8/1998 | Walker et al. | 705 | 5 | |
| AF | 5847620 | 4/1999 | Walker et al. | 705 | 5 | |
| AG | 5825863 | 10/1998 | Walker | 379 | 144 | |
| AH | 5793980 | 8/1998 | Glasser et al. | 395 | 200.61 | |
| AI | 5732216 | 3/1998 | Logan et al. | 395 | 200.33 | |
| AJ | 5793762 | 8/1998 | Pennors et al. | 370 | 389 | |
| AK | 5819032 | 10/1998 | De Vries et al. | 395 | 200.8 | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| AA | 5884324 | 3/1999 | Chen et al. | 701 | 201 | |
| AB | 5956697 | 9/1999 | Usui | 705 | 32 | |
| AC | 5956716 | 9/1999 | Kennor et al. | 707 | 10 | |
| AD | 6049829 | 4/2000 | Li | 709 | 229 | |
| AE | 6018767 | 1/2000 | Fujole et al. | 709 | 218 | |
| AF | 5943422 | 8/1999 | Van Wie et al. | 380 | 9 | |
| AG | | | | | | |
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